

RAND

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COUNTRY : SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)  
SUBJECT : 12 US Prisoners of War Captured  
in KONTUM Province, SVN  
DATE OF INFO : March - May 1966  
DATE AND PLACE : 10 April 1967 ( O - R )  
OF ACQUISITION: SAIGON, Vietnam

DATE OF REPORT: 20/4/67

NO. OF PAGES: 2

REF:

SOURCE:

### S U M M A R Y

Source's unit seized 12 American Prisoners of War (POWs) in KONTUM Province, SVN, from March through May 1966. He saw and described two POWs he had personally seen captured in late May. He did not know where the POWs were taken after his unit turned them over to authorities from an upper echelon, but surmised that they would be interned either in NVN or in Western Highlands where he heard a prison camp was located.

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ATTACHMENTS:

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None

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1. Source commented that Regiment 24 had captured 12 American soldiers after five engagements during March through May 1966 in KONTUM Province, SVN. Four soldiers were taken near National Route 14A in TU MA DONG District (a Highland name for the area TOUMOURONG on the map). Three Americans were captured in DAC TO District. The remaining five were caught in May, three at TU MA DONG District and two in District 80.
2. Cadre leaders told the Source's unit that three POWs were seized approximately 24 or 25 May during the VC attack of TU MA DONG Post. The soldiers were members of a relief element of "US Airlift Division One" which had been flown into the area by helicopters after the VC attacked the Post.
3. Source's company captured two US soldiers on or about 28 - 31 May in District 80, KONTUM Province. NGOC LINH Mountain was the only prominent reference point in the District which Source remembered. The POWs were also members of "US Airlift Division One". Source commented that both soldiers wore patches on their sleeves which resembled "the blade of a sword" and "an upside down V". Source saw these two POWs. One POW was Caucasian and had brown hair. Source did not remember the color of his eyes. He was over six feet tall and weighed less than 190 pounds. Source recalled a scar or an "unsmooth surface" on one cheek of the individual. This POW was not wounded. The other POW was either of Caucasian or Oriental descent. He had a very high nose but had eyes "like a Vietnamese". He had dark black hair, brown eyes, was over six feet tall and weighed over 200 pounds. This soldier was wounded in his right arm and leg, but his injury was described as non-critical. Source said he heard that the majority of the 12 prisoners were wounded, but he did not know the seriousness of their injuries.
4. Source did not know the ultimate disposition of the captives. Unit policy prohibited their detaining prisoners for more than five days. The two POWs he saw were taken to District 80. He surmised that they would be sent from there either to NVN or to a detention camp in Military Region V (MR-5) in the Western Highlands. Cadres told the Source's unit that there was a POW camp in MR-V which contained over 300 US personnel.

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